

## 2 November

General Practice in 2015  
Village Hotel, Whiston, Merseyside  
Contact: Anna Reid  
Email: mersey@rcgp.org.uk  
Tel: 0151 708 0865

## 9 November

Increase Your Effectiveness  
Collingwood College, Durham  
Contact: Clare Bartram  
Email: cbartram@rcgp.org.uk  
Tel: 01388 817518

## 9 November

Eating Disorders — the role of the GP  
RCGP N. Ireland — Lagan Island  
Conference Centre Lisburn  
Contact: Ian Feeley  
Email: ifeeley@rcgp.org.uk  
Tel: 028 90230055

## 16 November

Bullying at Work & Stress Management  
RCGP N. Ireland — Lagan Island  
Conference Centre Lisburn  
Contact: Ian Feeley  
Email: ifeeley@rcgp.org.uk  
Tel: 028 90230055

## 16 November

Last Minute Revision Session for the  
MRCGP Vivas  
Langstone Campus,  
University of Portsmouth  
Contact: Carol White  
Email: cwhite@rcgp.org.uk  
Tel: 01264 355013

## 18 November

Midland Faculty Autumn Ball  
Coptorne Hotel, Paradise Circus,  
Birmingham  
Contact: Barbara Ingram  
Email: midland.rcgp@wmdeanery.org  
Tel: 0121 414 8270

## 18 November

Provost's Dinner  
The White Horse, Pleshey  
Contact: Hugh Ortega Breton  
Email: essex@rcgp.org.uk  
Tel: 0207 173 6076

## 19 November

MRCGP Viva Preparation Course  
RCGP, Princes Gate, London  
Contact: Delroy Blake  
Email: dblake@rcgp.org.uk  
Tel: 020 7173 6033

## 23 November

Consultation Skills Workshop  
Postgraduate Centre, City Hospital  
Campus, Nottingham  
Contact: Alison Wynne  
Email: alisonwynne@hotmail.co.uk  
Tel: 0115 8466 902

## 23 November

New GP Curriculum: Interactive Workshop  
Safeguarding Children & Young People  
Professional Development Centre, School  
of Medicine, University of Birmingham  
Contact: Rachael Shepherd  
Email: midland.rcgp@wmdeanery.org  
Tel: 0121 414 8269

## 25 November

Fellowship Dinner  
De Courcy's Restaurant, Cardiff  
Contact: Shelley Leeson  
Email: sewales@rcgp.org.uk  
Tel: 029 2050 4547

## 30 November

Cognitive Behavioural Therapy  
Training Day  
Nottingham — exact location tbc  
Contact: Alison Wynne  
Email: alisonwynne@hotmail.co.uk  
Tel: 0115 8466 902

## Neville Goodman

### OUTSIDE WORLD

It's 4 years since it last happened in this column, but the outside world has intruded into my insular medical thoughts. First — and let me get this straight: the leader of a major world religion that, in its time, has murdered thousands of people in the name of its god, quotes from a hundreds-of-years-dead chap who accused another religion of using violence. You might think the sensible approach to this would be to shrug shoulders, and say, 'Look who's talking!' But no. In a clear demonstration that human beings don't deserve the Earth that they are presently threatening with death by fire, there are riots and a nun is shot dead. Not long afterwards, a Berlin production of Mozart's opera *Idomeneo* is pulled because one scene includes the lopped-off head of Mohammed. The same treatment is meted out to Jesus, Buddha, and Poseidon, but you can be sure that the Opera House was not worried about being besieged by mermaids. There is no place for gratuitous insults, but we cannot allow the world to be cowed by imagined slights. There is no saying more abused than, "Sticks and stones may hurt my bones..." All too often, words bring on the sticks and stones. It's not so much that the pen is mightier than the sword, but that the pen is the pre-runner to the sword.

Richard Dawkins, having taken many side-swipes at religion, has tackled it full on in his latest book, *The God Delusion*. I agree with almost everything Dawkins has ever written, but I'm not hopeful that the death of all religions would make the human condition any better. We'd just find other reasons to kill one another.

Rather more parochial, but no more encouraging, is the revelation that in the last year leading Chief Executives in the UK were awarded pay increases of 28%, over ten times the rate of inflation and twice the rise in share prices, while their workers received 3.7%. This follows the rule that to get more work out of people who are already rich you pay them much more, but to get more out of people who are poor you pay them even less. Except that I'm not sure the rich work any harder, and anyway they can always take a large pension and move onto the next job. The absolutely top dog CE received nearly £15 million, a cool 550 times more than his company's average salary. It's not the money; it's the message. No good will come of it.